

## **NLEC Executive Director Richard Alexander to address Grand Falls-Windsor employers on reducing cost of labour in this province**

*--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**May 13, 2009, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL** – NL Employers' Council (NLEC) Executive Director Richard Alexander will address the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at their General Membership Luncheon on the high cost of labour in Newfoundland & Labrador and its effect on doing business in this province in trying economic times.

Alexander will speak to business leaders in the region on three of the NLECs main advocacy goals: eliminating the payroll tax, reducing worker's compensation assessment rates and managing increases in minimum wage. Today, Newfoundland & Labrador has the highest cost of labour of any Atlantic Province. In addition to recent and upcoming increases in minimum wage; employer Workers' Compensation Premiums are the highest of any province; and Newfoundland & Labrador is the only province in Atlantic Canada that still has a payroll tax, a direct tax on employing people. In light of the current economic downturn, these high costs on employment need to be reduced in order for businesses in this province to be competitive and to retain and continue to hire employees in this province. The NLEC has been lobbying the provincial government for change on these issues, and will inform employers in the region of their work and how to get involved.

Alexander is in Grand Falls-Windsor to raise awareness of the NLEC's Employer Advisor services in the area. The NLEC has two advisors on staff that provide information, assistance and advice free to all employers in the province on workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, claims management, and appeals. Other staff and volunteers provide help to members on employment relations and human resource management issues.

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*The NLEC provides advocacy, communication and training for its members on matters that affect the employment relationship. Its membership includes employers and employer associations from the public and private sectors in all regions of the province.*

*For more information visit [www.nlec.nf.ca](http://www.nlec.nf.ca).*

**Interview opportunities are available.**

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